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# On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 319 

WA 18047

319

Dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1809.

Mr. John Halfhide  
to  
His Majesty.

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Copy Release of a messuage and  
two water corn mills at Waltham  
Abbey in the County of Essex.

---

Treasury Solicitor.



Stamp £75.

This Indenture made the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March  
 2 Followers 1 £ each. in the 49<sup>th</sup> year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord  
 George the 3<sup>rd</sup> by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom  
 of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the Faith  
 and in the year of Our Lord 1809 Between John  
 Halfhide of the Parish of Waltham Holy Cross in the  
 County of Essex Miller and Jane his wife of  
 the one part and His Most Excellent Majesty  
 Our Sovereign Lord King George the Third of the  
 other part Whereas the Principal Officers of His  
 Majesty's Ordnance for and on behalf of His Majesty  
 have contracted and agreed with the said John Halfhide  
 for the absolute purchase of the freehold and Copyhold  
 hereditaments hereinafter particularly mentioned and  
 described and the fee simple and inheritance thereof  
 free from all incumbrances (except as hereinafter  
 mentioned) together with certain fixtures and  
 effects in or about the same at or for the price or  
 sum of £9500 that is to say for the said freehold  
 hereditaments the sum of £4500 for the said Copyhold  
 hereditaments the sum of £1000 and for the said  
 fixtures and effects the sum of £1000 subject  
 to the condition nevertheless that the said John  
 Halfhide shall be permitted to reside in and  
 occupy the dwelling house he now occupies (part  
 of the said freehold hereditaments) for and  
 during such time as he shall choose without  
 paying or being required to pay any rent for  
 the same Now this Indenture Witnesseth  
 that in pursuance of the said agreement and for  
 and in consideration of the sum of £8500

(part of the said sum of £9500) to the said  
 John Halfhide in hand well and truly paid  
 by the said Principal Officers by and out of the  
 Treasury of His Majesty's Office of Ordnance at  
 or before the sealing and delivery of these presents  
 in full for the absolute purchase of the fee simple  
 and inheritance in possession of and in the freehold  
 hereditaments hereinafter particularly mentioned and  
 described with the appurtenants and of the fixtures  
 and effects now being in or about the said free-  
 hold hereditaments and also in or about the copyhold  
 hereditaments hereinafter described the payment and  
 receipt of which said sum of £8500 he the said  
 John Halfhide doth hereby acknowledge and of  
 and from the same and every part thereof doth  
 acquit release and discharge as well the said Principal  
 Officers and their successors Principal Officers of the  
 Ordnance for the time being as also His said Majesty  
 his heirs and successors and every of them for ever  
 by these presents he the said John Halfhide  
 hath granted bargained sold aliened released and  
 confirmed and by these presents doth grant bargain  
 sell alien release and confirm unto His said Majesty  
 (in his actual possession now being by virtue of  
 a bargain and sale to him thereof made by the  
 said John Halfhide in consideration of 5/-  
 by Indenture bearing date the day next before  
 the day of the date of these presents for 1 whole  
 year commencing from the day next before the  
 day of the date of the said Indenture of Bargain  
 and sale by force of the statute made for transferring  
 uses into possession) and to his heirs and successors  
 All That the messuage or tenement called the Mill

and the 2 water quist corn milles buildings barn  
 stable outhouses and yards thereunto belonging  
 situate standing and being in or near a certain  
 place called the Homeland in the Parish of  
 Waltham otherwise Waltham Holy Cross aforesaid  
 heretofore in the occupation of Charles Warner  
 afterwards of Edward Halfhide since of Ann  
 Halfhide his widow and now of the said John  
 Halfhide And Also All That land ground  
and soil covered with water called the Mill  
Stream leading thereto from a place called the  
 Water Turnpike in the Parish of Waltham Holy  
 Cross aforesaid and the fishery there of and thereto  
 belonging and also all and singular the going  
 yeers fixtures and effects of or belonging to  
 and now being in or about as well the said  
 freehold messuage milles and premises as also  
 the copyhold messuage or tenement hereinafter  
 described and all harts mounds fences ways  
 waters water courses ponds flood gates weirs lights  
 liberties privileges profits commodities advantages  
 and appurtenances whatsoever to the said messuage  
 or tenement water corn milles mill stream fishery  
 land hereditaments and premises belonging or in  
 anywise appertaining or therewith now or at any  
 time heretofore had held used occupied possessed  
 or enjoyed or accepted reputed deemed taken or  
 known as or for part parcel or member thereof  
 or appertenant thereto and the reversion and  
 reversions remainder and remainders yearly and  
 other rents issues and profits thereof and of every  
 part thereof And all the estate right title interest  
 inheritance use trust property possession claim and

demand whatsoever both at law and in equity of  
 him the said John Halfhide of in to or out of the  
 said messuage or tenement water Corn mills mill  
 stream fishery land hereditaments and premises hereby  
 granted and released or expressed or intended so to  
 be and every part thereof. And all deeds evidences  
 and writings whatsoever relating to or concerning  
 the said hereditaments and premises or any part  
 thereof alone or jointly with other hereditaments  
 of less value and true and attested copies of all  
 deeds evidences and writings relating to or  
 concerning the said hereditaments jointly with other  
 hereditaments of greater value now in the custody  
 or power of the said John Halfhide or which  
 he can come at or procure without suit at law or  
 in equity To Have and to Hold the said messuage  
 or tenement water Corn mills mill stream fishery  
 lands hereditaments fixtures and all and singular  
 other the premises hereby granted bargained sold  
 and released or expressed or intended so to be with  
 their and every of their appurtenances unto His  
 said Majesty his heirs and successors To and for  
 the only proper use and behoof of His said Majesty  
 his heirs and successors for ever and to and for no  
 other use intent or purpose whatsoever And  
 this Indenture further witnesseth that in  
 consideration of the sum of £1000 (residue of  
 the said sum of £9500) to the said John  
 Halfhide in hand well and truly paid by  
 the said principal Officers by and out of the  
 treasury of his Majesty's office of Ordnance  
 at or before the sealing and delivery of these  
 presents in full for the absolute purchase of the

fee simple and inheritance in possession according  
 to the custom of the manor of Waltham Holy  
 Cross of and in the Copyhold lands messuage or  
 tenement and hereditaments hereinafter particularly  
 mentioned and described and which said sum of  
 £1000 is the same sum as is mentioned to be  
 the consideration money of a certain surrender  
 in writing already prepared and about to be made  
 out of Court by the said John Halfhide the payment  
 and receipt of which said sum of £1000 he the  
 said John Halfhide doth hereby acknowledge  
 and of and from the same and every part  
 thereof doth acquit release and discharge as well  
 the said principal officers and their successors  
 principal officers as aforesaid as also his said  
 Majesty his heirs and successors for ever by  
 these presents he the said John Halfhide doth  
 hereby for himself his heirs executors and  
 administrators covenant promise and agree to  
 and with his said Majesty his heirs and  
 successors that he the said John Halfhide or  
 his heirs shall and will at the costs and charges  
 of his said Majesty or his successors at the  
 next general or other Court Baron or Customary  
 Court to be holden in and for the Manor of  
 Waltham Holy Cross in the County of Essex  
 aforesaid or out of Court forthwith according to  
 the custom of the said Manor duly surrender  
 into the hands of the Lord or Lords of the said  
 Manor All Those three pieces of meadow land  
 containing by estimation 4 acres he the same more or less  
 with the appurtenances lying and being in a meadow  
 called Edmondsey in the said Parish of Waltham



Holy Cross formerly in the occupation of John Farmer  
 the elder afterwards of Edward Halfhide ~~and~~ <sup>since</sup> of George  
 Halfhide & now of the said John Halfhide to which  
 premises the said John Halfhide was admitted tenant  
 at a Court holden for the said Manor on the 8<sup>th</sup> day  
 of June 1448 And also all that messuage or  
 tenement with the granary barn and buildings  
 hereunto belonging situate in Romeland in  
 Waltham Holy Cross aforesaid heretofore in the  
 tenure of John Scunders afterwards of John  
 Birk since of Daniel Pittson late of Benjamin  
 Vaughan and Hannah his wife and now of the said  
 John Halfhide to which said last mentioned  
 premises the said John Halfhide was admitted  
 tenant at a Court holden for the said Manor on  
 the 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 1445 And also all that piece  
 or parcel of ground containing in length 86 feet  
 and in breadth 10 feet be the same more or less  
 lying behind the said last mentioned messuage  
 and now converted into a garden to which said  
 piece or parcel of ground the said John Halfhide  
 was admitted tenant at a Court holden for the  
 said Manor on the said 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 1445  
 under a Grant from the Lord of the said Manor  
 to him the said John Halfhide his heirs and  
 assigns subject to the yearly rent of 5/- to be  
 paid to the Lord of the said Manor his heirs and  
 assigns on the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel  
 yearly To the use of Robert Hawgood Crew of  
 Pall Mall Westminster in the County of Middlesex  
 Esquire Secretary to the said Principal Officers of His  
 Majesty's Ordnance and his heirs in trust nevertheless  
 for his said Majesty his heirs and successors for ever



4.

or of such other person or persons as his said Majesty his heirs or successors shall direct or appoint and to and for no other use intent or purpose whatsoever And the said John Halfhide doth hereby for himself and the said Jane his wife and for his heirs executors and administrators Covenant promise and agree to and with his said Majesty his heirs and successors And the said Jane doth hereby declare and agree that they the said John Halfhide and Jane his wife shall and will at his the said John Halfhide's own proper Costs and Charges as of this present hilyary term Easter term next or some other subsequent term acknowledge and levy before his Majesty's Justices of the Court of Common pleas at Westminster one or more fine or fines *Sur conuizance de droit Come ceo' &c.* whereupon proclamations shall and may be had and made according to the form of the Statute in that case made and provided and the usual course of fines in such cases accustomed unto his said Majesty his heirs and successors of all and singular the said freehold messuage or tenement water Corn mills mill stream fishery land hereditaments and premises with the appurtenances by such apt and convenient names quantities qualities and descriptions to ascertain the same as shall be thought meet or necessary And it is hereby agreed <sup>and declared</sup> between and by the said parties to these presents that the said fine and fines so as aforesaid or in any other manner or at any other time or times levied or to be levied and acknowledged and all and every other fine and fines Common recovery and Common

recoveries conveyances and assurances in the law  
 whatsoever heretofore had made levied acknowledged  
 suffered or executed or hereafter to be had made  
 levied acknowledged suffered or executed of the  
 said freehold hereditaments and premises either  
 alone or jointly with other hereditaments by or  
 between the said parties to these presents or  
 any or either of them or whereunto they or  
 any or either of them are or shall be parties  
 or privies or party <sup>or</sup> of privity shall as to the  
 said freehold hereditaments and premises hereby  
 granted and released or expressed or intended  
 so to be and enure and shall be adjudged  
 deemed construed and taken to be and enure unto  
 and for the only proper use and behoof of his said  
 Majesty his heirs and successors for ever and to  
 and for no other use intent or purpose whatsoever  
 And the said John Halphide doth hereby for  
 himself his heirs executors and administrators  
 further covenant promise and agree to and with  
 his said Majesty his heirs and successors in  
 manner and form following that is to say that  
 for and notwithstanding any act deed ~~or~~ matter or  
 thing whatsoever by him the said John Halphide  
 or any person or persons claiming by from or  
 under him made done committed or willingly  
 or willingly suffered to the contrary he the  
 said John Halphide now at the time of the  
 sealing and delivery of these presents is and  
 standeth lawfully and rightfully seized of  
 and in the said freehold messuage or tenement  
 water corn mills mill stream fishery land  
 hereditaments and premises hereby granted and

released or expressed or intended so to be with their and every of their appurtenances of a good sure perfect absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in fee simple in possession and is and stands absolutely seized or possessed of and well entitled to the said Copyhold pieces of meadow land messuage or tenement piece or parcel of ground hereditaments and premises hereby covenanted to be surrounded or expressed or intended so to be of and for a good sure perfect absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance to him, and his heirs according to the Custom of the said Manor without any condition contingent proviso trust power of revocation or limitation of use or uses or any other matter cause or thing to alter change revoke incumber or make void the same estates respectively save and except as hereinafter mentioned And also that for and notwithstanding any such act deed matter or thing as aforesaid he the said John Halfhide now hath in himself good right full power and lawful and absolute authority to grant and release and surrender the said Freehold and Copyhold hereditaments and premises with their and every of their appurtenances unto and to the use of his said Majesty his heirs and successors in manner and form aforesaid and according to the true intent and meaning of these presents And further that it shall and may be lawful to and for his said Majesty his heirs and successors from time to time and at all times hereafter peaceably and quietly to enter into and upon and to have hold

use occupy possess and enjoy the said Freehold  
 and Copyhold hereditaments and premises hereby  
 granted and released and Covenanted to be  
 surrendered and every part and parcel thereof  
 with the appurtenances and to receive and take  
 the rents issues and profits thereof respectively to  
 and for his and their own use and benefit  
 without any the lawful let suit trouble denial  
 eviction interruption claim or demand whatsoever  
 of from or by the said John Halfhide or his heirs  
 or any other person or persons whosoever lawfully  
 or equitably claiming or to claim any estate  
 right title or interest of in to or out of the said  
 freehold and Copyhold hereditaments and  
 premises or any part thereof by from under  
 or in trust for him them or any of them And  
 that free and clear and freely clearly and  
 absolutely acquitted exonerated and discharged  
 or otherwise by him the said John Halfhide his  
 heirs executors or administrators well and sufficiently  
 saved defended kept harmless and indemnified  
 of and from and against all and all manner of  
 former and other gifts grants bargains sales  
 leases mortgages assignments jointures dowers  
 thirds right and title of dower and thirds  
 freebench uses trusts wills entails statutes  
 recognizances judgments extents executions  
 annuities rent charges arrears of rent surrenders  
 forfeitures reentries cause and causes of forfeiture  
 and reentry and of from and against all  
 and singular other estates titles charges and  
 incumbrances whatsoever has made done committed  
 occasioned or suffered or to be had made done

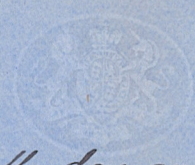
committed occasioned or suffered by him the said  
 John Halfhide his heirs or assigns or any other  
 person or persons whomsoever claiming or to  
 claim by from under or in trust for him  
 them or any of them or by or through his or  
 their or any of their act means default consent  
 assent privity or procurement (save and except  
 the rents and services due and payable for or in  
 respect of the said Copyhold premises) And  
 Moreover that he the said John Halfhide and  
 his heirs and all and every other person and persons  
 having or lawfully or equitably claiming any  
 estate right title interest use trust or demand  
 whatsoever of in to or out of the said freehold  
 and Copyhold hereditaments and premises hereby  
 granted and released and covenanted to be  
 surrendered or any part thereof from by under  
 or in trust for him or them shall and will  
 from time to time and at all times hereafter upon  
 the reasonable request and at the proper costs and  
 charges in the law of his said Majesty his heirs  
 or successors make do acknowledge levy suffer  
 and execute or cause or procure to be made done  
 acknowledged levied suffered and executed all  
 and every such further and other lawful and  
 reasonable act and acts deed and deeds things  
 devices conveyances surrenders and assurances in  
 the law whatsoever for the further better more  
 perfect and absolute granting releasing surrendering  
 and assuring of the same freehold and Copyhold  
 hereditaments and premises with their and  
 every of their appurtenances unto his said Majesty  
 his heirs or successors he the same by fine

feoffment Common recovery or otherwise howsoever as  
 by his said Majesty his heirs or successors or his or  
 their Counsel learned in the law shall be lawfully  
 and reasonably devised or advised and required so  
 as such further assurances contain or imply in  
 them no further or other warranty or covenants  
 than against the person or persons his her or  
 their heirs executors administrators acts and  
 deeds only who shall make do or execute the  
 same and so as the person or persons who shall  
 be required to make do or execute the same be  
 not Compelled or compellable for the making or  
 executing the same to go or travel from his or  
 their then most usual dwellings or places of  
 abode In Witness whereof the said parties to  
 these presents have hereunto set their hands and  
 seals the day and year first above written.

(signed) John (LS) Halfhide (signed) Jane (LS) Halfhide  
 Sealed and Delivered (being first duly stamped)  
 in the presence of G. Halfhide, Coventry Street.  
 John Watson, Clerk to Messrs Smith & Son, Basinghall Street.

Received the day and year first within written of  
 and from the within named principal  
 Officers of His Majesty's Ordnance the  
 sum of Eight thousand five hundred } £8500: ..  
 pounds being the consideration money }  
 first within mentioned to be paid by }  
 them to me.

(signed) Jno. Halfhide  
 Witness,  
 (signed) G Halfhide  
 -11- John Watson.



Received the day and year first within  
written of and from the within named  
Principal Officers of His Majesty's  
Orduance the sum of One thousand  
pounds being the consideration money  
secondly within mentioned to be paid  
by them to me.

£1000: .

(signed) Jno. Halfhide

£9500: .

Witness,

(signed) G. Halfhide

-r- John Watson

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# Lifetimes of Achievement

The People Commemorated  
In Waltham Abbey Church Memorials



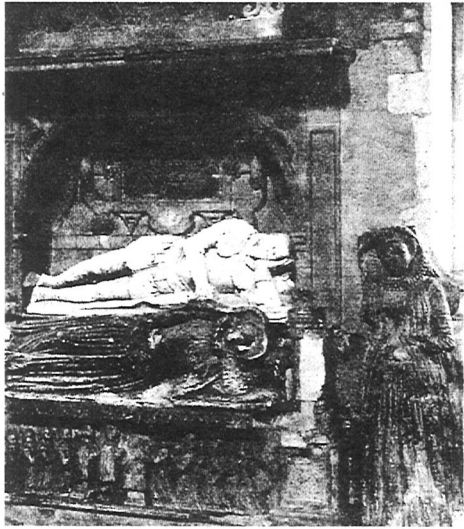
by Grenville Weltch

Waltham Abbey Historical Society

2010



**Lady Elizabeth Greville:** An effigy, carved from Nottingham or Burton alabaster, of Lady Greville who was buried in the church 3/9/1619, is still preserved on the east wall of the south aisle (as this old photo shows, it used to stand in an upright position by the Denny memorial).



The monument's inscriptions, however, have been lost. At one time this effigy was in a recumbent position, under a canopy supported with two marble pillars, over which was a coat of arms and an annexed inscription (see the Church Memorials project). The effigy was discovered during the 1860 restoration.

Elizabeth had first married **Henry Denny** (1540-1574), son and heir of Sir Anthony Denny. She was in fact, Henry Denny's

second wife. His first marriage, in 1560, was to Honora Grey (born 1540, buried 7/9/1569?), a relation of his second wife, and with whom he had six children. Elizabeth's maiden name was also Grey and she was a first cousin of Lady Jane Grey, who reigned as queen of England for 13 days. Her father was Lord John Grey (died 1564), a younger brother of Jane's father, Henry, 1st. Duke of Suffolk (1517-1554). Elizabeth had three children by Henry Denny; a son named Henry who died without issue and two daughters that died in infancy.

After Henry's death she married, on 13/11/1575, **Sir Edward Greville** of Harold's Park, Nazeing (born about 1542 and died 27/7/1615). Edward and Elizabeth had 3 sons and 8 daughters; the first son died in infancy, the second, Philip, died without issue. The third, Sir Fooke (Fulke-a family name), was baptised 22/1/1579, inherited his father's title and became one of the band of gentlemen pensioners to King James I. Gentlemen pensioners were a troop of gentlemen of noble birth, which Henry VIII set up in 1539 as an aristocratic guard around the sovereign.

One daughter, Helena, married a Sir William Maxey. Another, Elizabeth, married Sir Francis Swift, a great royalist and favourite of Charles I, on 18/6/1604. Sir Francis lived at Harold's Park which was owned by the Denny family. The land was sequestered in 1643, which means the income from the estate was forfeited. It was later redeemed by way of a single fine paid by James, Second Earl of Carlisle and second Lord Denny. James was referred to, at the time, as a "delinquent" which meant he was debarred from the Commons and lost all his Parliamentary privileges.

A third daughter was Douglass and a fourth was named Frances (1578-1633). The lost inscription from her mother's tomb, records that she was married to John Chamberlaine, Esq. but other records say she was married three times, first of all to Lt. Col. Nathaniel West about 1621; secondly to Abraham Piersey in 1625, and thirdly, to Sir Samuel Matthews (governor of Virginia) in 1629.

A fifth daughter was Anne, born about 1579, and a sixth, Mary, born about 1582. She married a William Howard Henry Gummery. There may have been a second Mary, but the last daughter, Margaret, born about 1595 married Col. Godfrey Bosville on 2/12/1613.

**Halfhide Family:** In the north aisle there is a stone to the memory of **Edward Halfhide** who died 4/9/1764, aged 72, and to **Anne Halfhide** who died in 3/1/178, aged 80. On the floor at the west end of the church is a stone over a vault of **John Halfhide** who died 14/10/1814 aged 82 and **Jane Halfhide**, his wife, who died 13/5/1827, aged 76. A further stone by the west door states that this is the entrance to Mr Halfhide's vault.

The Benefactor's Board on the south wall of the porch records John Halfhide as giving £200 in the Navy 5% annuities, with the dividends being applied to the Sunday School in the town and to the poor widows receiving pensions. More than 200 boys and girls were educated in the Sunday School.

In 1790, in relation to an enquiry respecting its sale, there is a reference to a moiety of the Corn Mill belonging to Sir William Wake and the other to Mr. Halfhide, the occupier.

There is a further reference, made on 12/6/1809, to the purchase of the Corn Mill house, and other buildings near the church, for £9,500 from John Halfhide by the Gunpowder Factory, then owned by the government (see also George Fawbert). There is a tombstone, in the churchyard to George Halfhide who died 1/8/1790 aged 62, and his son, Edward, who died 17/1/1806, aged 53.

**Hanchet Family:** They have no actual monuments in the church, but as a family of local stonemasons, their work certainly is present, stretching back over two, or maybe three generations. **Samuel Hanchet** carried out the carving to the stonework around the inner door of the porch in 1853, which was restored by his brother **John Hanchet**, under the direction of the architect, **Ambrose Poynter**. John Hanchet may also have cut the inscription in two small stones recording the enclosure of the churchyard by a brick wall in 1829. He was the father of **Edwin John Hanchet** who succeeded to the business.

**William Hanchet** executed the work on the War Memorial (see the advert opposite) in 1922. Edwin John Hanchet was in business at 31 Sun Street in 1902 and John William Hanchet in 1926, and in 1929 at the same address. They no longer appear to have been in business, though, in 1937.



Monuments,  
Tomb  
Tablets,  
Crosses,  
and  
Memorials  
of all  
descriptions  
supplied  
and  
erected  
in  
Granite,  
Marble,  
Alabaster,  
or  
Stone,  
at  
lowest  
London  
prices.

**E. J. HANCHET,**  
*Monumental and Marble Mason,*  
31, SUN STREET,  
WALTHAM ABBEY.

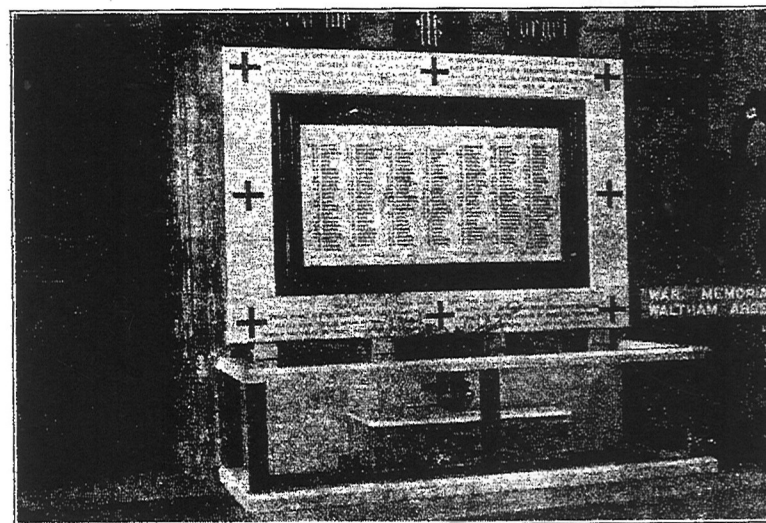
# J. W HANCHET,

## Monumental & Cemetery Mason,

### WALTHAM ABBEY,

And HIGH STREET, WALTHAM CROSS.

*The Abbey Church WAR MEMORIAL TABLET, Waltham Abbey.*



*This beautiful Memorial Tablet (12ft. by 10ft.) of Polished Marble, in Tinos, Convent Sienna, Rosso Antico, and Sicilian, is a specimen of work Executed.*

**MEMORIALS SUPPLIED IN MARBLE, STONE, AND GRANITE.**

**Designs & Estimates Free on application. Distance no object.**

**CONTRACTOR FOR WAR MEMORIAL TABLETS IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM  
UNDER THE IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION.**

Printed at the "Weekly Telegraph" Office, Waltham Abbey

1922

In 1897 he enlisted as a second lieutenant in the King's Royal Rifle Corps. and served with distinction and bravery in the Boer wars, for which he was awarded the DSO. He married **Daisy Benton** in 1912, following which he spent a great deal of time in France during the First World War, not only in action but also in strategic planning. He was promoted to temporary Brigadier General in 1917.



In 1924 he was appointed as a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant of the County. In the same year he was also appointed as a Lieutenant Colonel to the General Staff Office at Western Command HQ. Chester. In 1932 he was promoted to Major-General. In 1939, at the outbreak of the Second World War, he was appointed as one of the four King's Messengers whose job it was to convey highly confidential material to commanders in the field. In 1944 he was appointed High Sheriff of Northamptonshire.

He had six great passions in his life; his family, his regiment, hunting, horses, dogs (not cats), and Courteenhall. He was also concerned in the affairs of the County, holding many different offices. His achievements in the service of his country during three major wars were outstanding and were publicly recognised.

Finally, the second Funerary Hatchment, second from the west, on the north wall, commemorates **Sir William Wake 8th Baronet** (whose miniature portrait is shown here), born in 1742 and died 29/10/1785. He succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his father in 1765.

He went to Eton and then, as a commoner, to Trinity College, Cambridge. He went on to be a student at Lincolns Inn. He married **Mary Fenton** on 6/6/1765. She was the daughter and heiress of **Richard Fenton** of Bank Top, Yorkshire. They lived mainly in Waltham Abbey. He was elected MP for Bedford in 1774 and served as such for ten years. He was a strong critic of British policy during the American War of Independence: "A mistaken sense of dignity in the American War has nearly ruined this country".

He suffered from ill-health throughout his life. He died at Waltham Abbey, on 29/10/1785, after an illness lasting seven days, his body being taken to Courteenhall, Northants. for burial. His widow, Mary, died 10/12/1823. Her hatchment is in the parish church of Courteenhall. It was during his time that the Abbey House was reported to have been pulled down, in 1770. It was built in 1590 by Edward Denny, later Earl of Norwich and grandson of **Sir Anthony Denny**.

**Walton Family:** There are two memorials to this family in the church. The **Waltons** were owners of the Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Mills for most of the 18th C. There is a ledger stone to **Anne Walton** in the sanctuary, under the sedilia, which records that she was the second daughter of **William** and **Phillipa**, of Balham, Streatham, and died, unmarried, on 29/5/1772 aged 66. William's father came from Mortlake and Phillipa, nee **Bourchier's**, memorial is at Mickleham. She was born c. 1675 and died in 1749.

The second memorial, to their second son **John**, is the northernmost of the three black (Tournai) marble ledger slabs in front of the communion rail. This records that he married **Hester Jacobsen**, eldest of the daughters and co-heiress of **Sir Jacob Jacobsen** of Walthamstow, whom he survived and by whom he had no issue. He died on 19/7/1757 aged 58. He married Hester in 1732. She was the granddaughter of **Sir Gilbert Heathcote**, Lord Mayor of London. Her father, Sir Jacob Jacobsen, was a director of the South Sea Company.

**William Walton** signed his first contract with the Board of Ordnance for the supply of gunpowder in 1702. He died, intestate, in 1711 aged 43, at Balham, Surrey, where he lived. As William died intestate, Phillipa only inherited one third of his estate, the rest being

held in trust to be divided between their ten children, nine of whom survived into adulthood. In January 1719 the trustees purchased the site on behalf of Phillipa and her children. The family connection with the Gunpowder Mills, therefore, continued. They were successfully run by **Phillipa** and her family, until bought out by the Board of Ordnance in 1787 for £10,000. Details of the deal were not completed, though, until 1795.

Her son **John** was the first to run the works, followed after his death in 1757 by his brothers, first, **Thomas** (c1710-1770) then **Bourchier** (died 1779) and finally **James** (died 1782). From 1760-2 Bouchier Walton was also a director of the East India Company which probably facilitated the agreement of the Board to the Waltons supplying the company with 300 barrels of gunpowder in 1762; a good example of the interlocking interests of the powder producers and the London mercantile and financial houses. The business was left to a nephew, **John Walton** (born 1720), and it was he who sold the mills to the government. **Izaak Walton**, the famous angler, was related to the family.

**Comfort Wilkes:** His memorial was once in the church. He was a surety to the Victualler of the Turnpike Inn on the Lea in 1770 and 1773.

**Thomas Winspeare:** He is named as a churchwarden on the 1744 Benefactors board in the porch. He is, most likely, the grandson, known as Thomas IV, of a Thomas Winspear born in 1598 who became a churchwarden in 1643, and held office until his death when he was buried in the church on 22/9/1653. His son Thomas II inherited his property. He is recorded as owning land in the vicinity of Warlies, Upshire, in 1637. He also owned a house in Sewardstone Street. Thomas I had bought a small cottage and orchard on the site in 1638-9 for £72 and extended the cottage to make a house. Thomas II was indicted at the Waltham memorial court and at the Assises for sodomy in 1669, and as this was a capital offence, he probably went into exile or hiding for a time. Later he must have returned, as he was buried here in 1695, leaving his house to his daughter Sarah for life and then to his grandson, the aforementioned Thomas IV.

In 1966, an excavation was made of the site of this house in Sewardstone Street (Nos. 46/68) which had been demolished in the early 1920s. This house, and others near it, were all cleared for re-development in the 1960s. The property, on the east side of the street, had been passed down to the 7th Thomas Winspeare who by the time he moved to Montserrat in the West Indies in 1799, had sold it to a John Bland.



SEWARDSTONE STREET, c.1900. The large dilapidated house was built by a London mercer, Thomas Winspear, c.1640. Excavations in 1966 produced fine pottery and glass datable to 1669.

**Henry Wollaston:** He was a Justice of the Peace in Waltham Abbey for many years; He officiated at the solemnisation of marriages, according to Cromwell's Acts, during the Commonwealth. His nephew, **Francis'** bust, in marble, is in the north aisle. In 1889 it was in place on the Smith tomb and, previous to that, it originally stood on top of his memorial on the wall of the north aisle. It was moved in the 18th C when a gallery was put up and the two parts became separated. His memorial is, now, on the west wall of the porch and his ledger stone is near the inner west door of the church. It was taken up at some time and put back the wrong way round. It was originally in the chancel. He

